

USSR-POLAND: Criticism of Trade Unions

A Polish diplomat in Moscow yesterday expressed his fears that Soviet uneasiness over events in Poland is growing. He claimed that the Soviets are voicing their concern to the Polish Communist Party over the "political orientation" of the new unions, contending that these "conservative" unions will become a liability to the Polish political system.

Moscow, meanwhile, has issued its most authoritative public condemnation to date of the idea of independent trade unions. Pravda quoted yesterday from a purported new collection of Lenin's writings and ridiculed the "bourgeois" concept of "so-called free trade unions." It highlighted Lenin's contention that trade unions in a socialist country could only operate "under the direct leadership of the party." Coming one day after Lech Walesa's Polish union submitted its registration papers in Warsaw, the article is a warning signal to all Poles that there are limits to Soviet tolerance.

Approved for Release

Top Secret

.26 September 1980